

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 3 and 9-14 are pending. Claims 3, 9 and 11-13, have been amended. Claims 3, 9 and 11 are the only independent claims.

First, the Office Action required that Figs. 3A and 3B be labelled prior art. However, the originally filed Figs. 3A and 3B are *already* labelled prior art. For this reason, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, the claims have been amended simply to clarify what was already recited. As to the definition of perimeter provided in the Office Action, the claims have been amended to clearly define a “contact perimeter” that is defined by the contact points at which the first and second housing contact one another in assembly. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from U.S. Patent 4,823,952 (Fletcher et al.). Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a portable information radio terminal device comprising: a device body, the device body including a first and second casing assemblable with each other at contact points defining a contact perimeter of the device body; a printed board provided in the device body; an electronic part provided on the printed board; and an elastic member in direct contact with and supporting the printed board inboard of, and without contacting, the contact perimeter of the device body.

The claimed placement of the elastic member so as to support the printed board inboard of, and without contacting, the contact perimeter of the device body provides superior protection from shock when compared with configurations, such as those shown in Fletcher, that use elastomeric strips in the connection joints, at the contact perimeter between the casings in the manner of a gasket.

Further, as was discussed in the previous response, in the invention defined in claim 1, the printed board is not limited to a shape that corresponds to the shape of the contact perimeter of the casing and yet may be securely held in place within the casing, allowing for the use of boards of various sizes and shapes, depending on need, and not as constrained by the shape of the casing, as in prior techniques.

In Fletcher, elastomeric strips 56, 58 and 60 are provided so as to fit between bosses 88, the bosses 88 being provided for the assembling screws 82 that hold the frames 102 together *at the contact perimeter of the casing*. The circuit boards are clamped between the frames 102 using the elastomeric strips at the connection points of the frames such that the elastomeric strips are *at and in contact with* the contact perimeter of the frame 102. Fletcher does *not* teach or suggest an elastic member in direct contact with and supporting the printed board inboard of, and *without contacting* the contact perimeter of the device body, as in claim 1, and in fact teach away from such a configuration. That is, Fletcher clearly teaches that the elastomeric strips *are* to be located at and along the contact perimeter of the casings.

Since the boards in Fletcher must be secured at points along the contact perimeter of the casing, the shape of the boards in Fletcher is limited to those shapes that conform to the shape of perimeter of the casing. Moreover, since the elastomeric strips of Fletcher are in contact with the contact perimeter, shock applied to the casing in Fletcher is more easily transmitted directly to the board as compared to the claimed structure, in which the elastic member is inboard of, and not in contact with the contact perimeter, and may be configured

to respond more independently of the case, for example as shown in Figure 1B. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is believed patentable over Fletcher.

Independent claim 9 is a method of manufacturing a portable information radio terminal device. Claim 9 recites, inter alia, arranging a printed board on one of first and second casings with an elastic member positioned inboard of, and without contacting the *contact perimeter* of the one of the first and second casings. Claim 9 is believed patentable over Fletcher for reasons similar to those presented above in connection with claim 1.

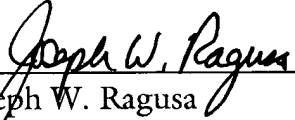
Claim 11 is directed to a portable information radio terminal device comprising: a housing, the housing comprising a first casing and a second casing detachable from the first casing, the first and second casings being assemblable with each other at contact points defining a contact perimeter of the housing; a printed circuit board; and a cushion in contact with both the housing and the printed circuit board so as to support the printed circuit board within the housing, the cushion being positioned inboard of, and without contacting, the contact perimeter of the housing. Claim 11 is believed to distinguish over Fletcher for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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